

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 18, 2003. Claims 1-4 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bertetti et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,027,122. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a sealing device for a rolling contact bearing. Claim 1 recites two inserts made of metal material and which are each coupled to a relative race, as well as a phonic wheel which is supported by a more external of the two inserts. Claim 1 further recites that the more external of the two inserts comprises an annular housing for containing the phonic wheel which is axially open towards an outside of the bearing, and which presents a shield which is made of vulcanised rubber material and which is arranged in such a way as to completely seal the housing.

Bertetti discloses a sealing assembly for a rolling element bearing including an elastomeric covering portion 35. As described at column 2, lines 57-61 of Bertetti, the covering portion 35 includes a portion 35a that is filled with particles of magnetic powder to form, after magnetization, a phonic wheel 39. In other words, the elastomeric portion 35a of covering portion 35 is filled with the magnetizable metallic powder. Bertetti, column 2, lines 44-48. Therefore, the phonic wheel 39 disclosed by Bertetti is an integral part of the covering portion 35.

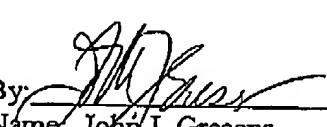
In contrast to Bertetti, claim 1 recites that a more external of two inserts comprises an annular housing for containing the phonic wheel which is axially open towards an outside of the bearing, and which presents a shield which is made of vulcanised rubber material and which is arranged in such a way as to completely seal the housing. Even assuming, as suggested in the rejection, that the covering portion 35 acts as a shield (a characterization that is not conceded), Bertetti fails to disclose an insert with an annular housing for containing the phonic wheel which is axially open towards an outside of the bearing. Instead, in Bertetti the phonic wheel 39 is an integral part of the covering portion 35, as noted above, and therefore no annular housing is formed.

For at least these reasons, Bertetti fails to anticipate claim 1, as well as claims 2-4 that depend therefrom. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-4 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By: 
Name: John J. Gresens
Reg. No.: 33,112
JJG/RAK

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